

Serial No. 10/816,696
Amendment and Response to Office Action
Mailed: 6 December 2005

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system comprising:
an enclosure; and
a plane assembly mounted within the enclosure and configured to connect with multiple pluggable devices, the plane assembly comprising:
a first plane portion having multiple connectors; and
at least a second plane portion having multiple connectors, the second plane portion being offset from the first plane portion to define a gap that is dimensioned to promote airflow via the gap through the enclosure; and
wherein the first plane portion and the at least second plane portion are configured to both connect to each of the multiple pluggable devices.
2. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plane portions are elevationally offset within the enclosure.
3. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plane portions are longitudinally offset within the enclosure.

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4. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plane portions are elevationally and longitudinally offset within the enclosure.
5. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the enclosure has a height and said plane portions have respective heights, and wherein the collective height of the plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height.
6. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the enclosure has a height and said plane portions have respective heights, and wherein the collective height of the plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height, and wherein the plane portion heights are about equal to one another.
7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plane assembly comprises a back plane assembly.
8. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein said plane assembly comprises a mid-plane assembly.
9. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blades.

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10. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blade servers.

11. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein the plane assembly comprises only the first and second plane portions.

12. (currently amended) A system comprising:

an enclosure comprising a base, a top and a pair of sidewalls joined with and extending between the base and top to define an interior volume within which multiple pluggable devices can be received, the enclosure having a front and a back;

a first back plane portion mounted within the enclosure and comprising multiple connectors; and

a second back plane portion mounted within the enclosure and comprising multiple connectors, the second back plane portion being spaced apart from the first back plane portion effective to define a gap that allows air entering from the front of the enclosure to escape at the back of the enclosure via the gap; and

wherein the first back plane portion and the second backplane plane portion are configured to both connect to each of the multiple pluggable devices.

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13. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first and second back plane portions are longitudinally and elevationally spaced apart within the enclosure.

14. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the enclosure has a height between the base and the top, and the first and second back plane portions have respective heights, wherein the collective height of the back plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height.

15. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the enclosure has a height between the base and the top, and the gap has a gap width between the first and second back plane portions that is no less than about one half of the enclosure height.

16. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blades.

17. (original) The system of claim 12, wherein the multiple pluggable devices comprise blade servers.

18. (currently amended) A system comprising:
an enclosure;

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a mid-plane assembly mounted within the enclosure and configured to connect with multiple pluggable devices, the mid-plane assembly comprising:

a first mid-plane portion having multiple connectors on both sides thereof;

and

at least a second mid-plane portion having multiple connectors on both sides thereof, the second mid-plane portion being offset from the first mid-plane portion; and

wherein the first mid-plane portion and the at least second mid-plane portion are configured to both connect to each of the multiple pluggable devices.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein said mid-plane portions are elevationally and longitudinally offset within the enclosure.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, wherein the enclosure has a height and said mid-plane portions have respective heights, and wherein the collective height of the mid-plane portions is about equal to the enclosure height.

21. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising:
a first grippable end;
a second end spaced from the first end;
a body that extends between the first and second end;

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the second end comprising a terminus having a pair of offset extensions, individual offset extensions comprising electrical and mechanical structures that are configured to be received by a connector pair comprising individual connectors mounted on spaced-apart plane portions which are spaced apart to define a gap between the individual plane portions to accommodate airflow via the gap through an enclosure in which the plane portions are mounted.

22. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the offset extensions are configured to be received by a connector pair of a back plane.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the offset extensions are configured to be received by a connector pair of a mid-plane.

24. (currently amended) A method comprising:

providing an enclosure; and

mounting a plane assembly within the enclosure by mounting a first plane portion having multiple connectors within the enclosure and mounting a second plane portion having multiple connectors within the enclosure;

the second plane portion being offset from the first plane portion to define a gap that is dimensioned to promote airflow via the gap through the enclosure, the plane assembly being configured to connect with multiple pluggable devices, wherein the first

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plane portion and the second plane portion are configured to both connect to each of the multiple pluggable devices

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said acts of mounting comprise elevationally and longitudinally offsetting said plane portions within the enclosure.